



Locality/Agency:

Virginia State Police (VSP)

Current Communications System:

Currently converting from a communications system installed in 1977 to the Statewide Agencies Radio System (STARS).

Importance of Common Language:

STARS serves 21 state agencies and aspires to connect with and be able to talk to all localities across the state as needed.

Triggering Event:

Hurricane Katrina, Department of Homeland Security Guidance, and ultimately the recommended protocol from the State Interoperability Executive Committee.

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Common Language Migration – Virginia State Police

Virginia State Police (VSP) endorsed the common language protocol in Summer 2006 following the work of the State Interoperability Executive Committee, Advisory Group, and dedicated Initiative Action Team. Following this endorsement, VSP began the internal research necessary to determine the best time to implement common language, develop a training strategy for common language, and determine if the current and future communications systems were compliant with the protocol. The process that was used by VSP and the current status of this migration is described below.

Task	Status	Tools Available*
Assemble internal committee to determine timeline and training needs	Committee completed assessment and determined that migration could happen anytime after October 15, 2006. Time was given to ensure that the CAD system was programmed to be compliant with the common language protocol prior to roll-out.	CAD system programming – upon request to VSP
Release organization-wide bulletin	Bulletin sent to all radio users on October 12, 2006 announcing the change to common language effective November 1, 2006.	Bulletin
Provide guidance to radio users regarding professional language that will replace 10-codes	Currently working to create a professional language guide to replace all 10-codes for use in vehicle and at dispatch.	Upon Completion – Professional Language Guide
Provide training to VSP personnel	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Early November 2006 – dispatchers trained on new protocol 2. October/November 2006 – Supervisor's in-service training 3. Early 2007 – Special Agents training 4. State Troopers – in-service training was completed before November 1st, daily use will be used to aid migration until the next cycle of training (2 year) 5. Basic Training – new troopers will only be provided new common language guidance 	Upon Completion – Additional Lessons Learned from Migration
Implementation completed	It is anticipated that full migration to plain English will take up to five years for VSP.	

* Tools are provided upon request from the Commonwealth Interoperability Coordinator's Office at (804) 692-0137